



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

February 2, 2006

For immediate release

- 1. Iowans asked for input on plan to improve water quality in the Big Sioux River**
- 2. DNR enforcement actions**

IOWANS ASKED FOR INPUT ON PLAN TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN THE BIG SIOUX RIVER

DES MOINES – The DNR is asking for Iowans' input on a draft plan to improve water quality in the Big Sioux River.

High bacteria levels are the main cause of water quality problems in the Big Sioux River, located in northwest Iowa. Those bacteria indicate that waste from wildlife, livestock, birds and humans is in the water. The bacteria come from sources throughout the watershed, or area of land that drains into the river. Those sources include treated wastewater, rain and snow runoff from areas with wildlife and livestock, and leaking septic systems.

The DNR has developed the draft water quality plan, also known as a TMDL, or Total Maximum Daily Load. TMDLs are calculations used to determine how much of a pollutant a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards. The plan includes information on how conservation efforts in the watershed can improve water quality.

Iowans can submit comments on the plan via e-mail, phone or mail through March 6 (contact information below). In addition, the DNR will present the draft water quality plan at two public meetings in northwest Iowa later this month. The DNR will announce meeting times and locations soon.

The draft plan and supporting documents can be obtained through:
Internet: www.iowadnr.com/water/tmdlwqa/tmdl/publicnotice.html

E-mail: william.graham@dnr.state.ia.us

Telephone: William Graham at (515) 281-5917

Mail: William Graham, care of Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319

After receiving public comments, the DNR will forward the draft plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for final approval.

For more information, contact Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791.

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DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

DES MOINES — The DNR took the following enforcement actions in January. The following are only briefs; please contact Jessie Brown of the DNR for more information at (515) 281-5131.

Consent Orders

A consent order is issued in settlement of an administrative order or as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

- Russell Knobbe, dba Knobbe Brothers Feedlot and Mello Knobbe, Inc., of Carroll, agreed in a consent amendment to pay a \$1,000 penalty. This amends a 2004 administrative order regarding air quality violations.
- The City of Anamosa agreed in a consent order to comply with the effluent limitation of its NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permit, to comply with a set schedule for wastewater treatment facility improvements and to pay a \$4,500 penalty. The consent order is in regard to wastewater violations.
- Robert Plendl, dba Plendl Brothers Trucking, of Kingsley, agreed in a consent order to retain a certified groundwater professional to complete and submit to the DNR either a Tier 1 or Tier 2 report, and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to underground storage tank violations at a site in Kingsley.
- Homestead Valley Farms, Inc., of Hull, agreed in a consent order to update its manure management plan (MMP) based on the phosphorus index, to submit as-built construction documentation to the DNR for its calf barns and to pay a penalty of \$3,000. The consent order is in regard to animal feeding operation violations.
- James Brown, of Oto, agreed in a consent amendment to pay a \$1,250 penalty. This amends a 2004 administrative order regarding air quality violations.

For more information, contact Jessie Brown at (515) 281-5131 or Jessie.Brown@dnr.state.ia.us.